Mr. Buchanan, however, made no criticism on the memorandum in question save that he told the South Carolina representatives[1] that he did not like the word "provided," because it looked as if they were trying to bind him,[2] while they themselves had no authority to commit the convention. This construction they promptly disavowed.

The representatives from South Carolina subsequently claimed that, having thus expressed to Mr. Buchanan their "strong convictions" that their State would abstain from violence if the Government should refrain from reinforcing the forts and from transferring the garrison of Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, they were bound in honor to use their influence to prevent the violent action of their State, and Mr. Buchanan was likewise "bound in honor to refrain from reinforcing the forts and from occupying Fort Sumter. The force of this suggestion is certainly not apparent on its face; nor is the subject much elucidated by the statements of the parties. We shall examine the evidence in the Notes to this chapter; suffice it to say here that it does not seem to us that the President was in any way committed to the retention of Major Anderson at Fort Moultrie. He was, as it seems to us, merely notified that, if Anderson and his command were

reinforced or transferred to Fort Sumter, it was, in the opinion of the representatives from South Carolina, altogether probable that the forts would be attacked. But he

Statement of Messrs. Miles and Keitt; | W. R.[1] 126; Buchanan, p. 168.

[2] M"r. Buchanan says that he informed the delegation that he never would make an agreement not to reinforce the forts ; Buchanan, p. 168.